

Human Rights and Global Strategy

For individuals and global organizations, engaging with and responding to human rights issues has never been more high stakes. At Jenner & Block, our Human Rights and Global Strategy Practice helps clients address a wide range of human rights issues involving corruption and rule of law, freedom of expression, supply chain standards, human trafficking and modern slavery, environmental justice, stakeholder engagement, and indigenous persons' rights.

Our team includes:

- A former US Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Switzerland
- A former Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General in the US Department of Justice's Criminal Division
- A former trial attorney in the US Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division
- A director at the Center for Justice & Accountability
- A former director of Amnesty International UK

Through our team's longstanding engagement in the international human rights system, we bring a credible, commercial, values-driven approach to each engagement, leveraging a deep understanding of human rights norms, and the multilateral system to help clients both preempt and solve complex transnational crises involving major threats to businesses, brands, and reputations. With our help, clients develop strong business and human rights strategies and practices; instigate robust supply chain governance; prevent, detect, respond to, and recover from human rights issues, including in their supply chains; navigate highly sensitive transnational disputes involving hostage negotiations and public corruption; and use civil litigation to hold governments accountable for potential wrongdoing.

Global Strategies for Corporate Compliance

Governments around the world are taking divergent approaches to requiring global businesses to assess their supply chains and report on efforts to prevent human rights, climate and other environmental, social, and governance (ESG) risks. The risk landscape has complexified through these differing regulations, as well as intensified enforcement actions, government and media

scrutiny, litigation by NGOs and private plaintiffs and pressure from investors, customers, shareholders, employees, and labor organizations.

With our experience of the regulatory landscape as well as soft law standards and market practice, we advise global organizations on integrating human rights and climate compliance obligations across their organizations and supply chains. We stand ready to help our clients develop cohesive, coordinated and strategic approaches – both to identify, assess, mitigate and prevent adverse human rights or climate impacts, and implement or reinforce a comprehensive compliance strategy that balances different international risks.

In particular, we advise on the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights and implementation of human rights policies. Our team understands the Guiding Principles and how they operate, and we can aid business enterprises as they navigate any aspect of the process, including making human rights impact assessments to ensure credible human rights policies and practices.

Crisis Management, Investigating, and Rooting out Wrongdoing

We conduct independent investigations to develop strategic responses to human rights-related crises and conduct global reviews for companies seeking proactively to identify and address vulnerabilities in corporate policies, supply chains, and partnerships. Where misconduct has taken place, we help companies stem the wrongdoing, manage the fallout, and build their businesses back better.

Representation in International Fora

When companies find themselves under the scrutiny of the complex and multifaceted system that governs human rights, they trust our team to navigate each step. We know how the system works and act quickly to minimize reputational damage while engaging productively with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, European Court of Justice, International Court of Justice, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and UN Human Rights Council, among other institutions.

Affirmative Litigation for Victims of Human Rights Abuses and Their Families

For individual clients who have been victims of human rights abuses, we bring the full force of our experience to hold perpetrators accountable. We pursue relief through litigation in the United States, United Kingdom, European, and international courts to advance individual rights and dignity. We have represented clients held hostage overseas, victims of extrajudicial killings and terrorism, and other victims of international law violations who seek to vindicate their rights through litigation. We have extensive experience litigating claims in US courts pursuant to the Anti-Terrorism Act, Torture Victim Protection Act, and the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act; and in the UK and EU under the Human Rights Act and European Convention on Human Rights.

Experience

Investigations, Compliance, and Counselling

- Conducted workers' rights assessment to assess a large technology company's efforts to comply with its Human Rights Policy in the United States as it relates to workers' freedom of association and collective bargaining.
- Counseled a major tech company that was being criticized by the United Nations because UN experts perceived that the company's platform was being used as a means to incite violence and human rights abuses. With active engagement, we were able successfully to address the concerns and ameliorate the reputational risks involved. *
- Represented a security company initially listed by the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights on the "black list" of companies alleged to be doing business in the West Bank.
- Advised companies in the technology, consumer products, electronics, and other industries on developing human rights policies and procedures, complying with human rights reporting requirements and best practices, and integrating human rights into their business models and supply chains.
- Advised multiple global companies on the application of human rights legislation in multiple different jurisdictions to their business operations around the world.
- Advised multiple global companies on the human rights implications of corporate acquisitions.

Litigation

- Serving as co-counsel with Amal Clooney representing more than 400 Yazidi-Americans in a lawsuit alleging French conglomerate Lafarge SA aided and abetted ISIS terrorist campaigns against the ethnic minority.
- Won dismissal of fraud litigation—brought by foreign government entities against a perceived political opponent—based on the United States' assertion of the state secrets privilege and won appeal affirming dismissal in published First Circuit opinion.
- Represented the widow of a journalist in U.S. federal court seeking money damages from foreign government officials for carrying out the extrajudicial killing of that journalist.
- Representing a former foreign government official in affirmative human rights litigation in U.S. federal court arising from an attempted extrajudicial killing of that official.
- Representing the family of a victim of the downing of MH17 in eastern Ukraine in civil litigation against Russian banks under the US Anti-Terrorism Act.

- Defending a former foreign government official against a campaign of persecution brought by state-owned instrumentalities in civil courts in the UK and around the world.
- Successfully represented a senior Afghan female judge at immediate risk of Taliban retaliation in her application for resettlement in the UK.

**Matter handled by a Jenner & Block partner prior to joining the firm.*

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Related Capabilities

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Congressional Investigations

Consumer Brands

Culture Risk and Sensitive Investigations

ESG: Environmental, Social, and Governance

Election Law and Redistricting

Food and Beverage

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Government Controversies and Public Policy Litigation

International Arbitration

Investigations, Compliance, and Defense

Monitorship Practice

National Security and Crisis

Native American Law

Reproductive Health Task Force

Technology